

Released: JANUARY 16, 2001
Issue No. CW-02-01

MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
TWIN CITIES INT'L AIRPORT, UNIV. OF MINN. EXTENSION SERVICE, AND STATE CLIMATOLOGY, DNR

The following comments are from Minnesota's County Extension Educators
and FSA (USDA - Farm Service Agency) Offices

BROWN: Farmers report heavier than usual consumption of feed by livestock during the recent cold spell. Feed supplies seem to be adequate with the exception of good quality dairy hay.

CHISAGO: Crop producers are actively purchasing crop insurance and considering crop marketing decisions for the old and new crops.

CLEARWATER: Feed supplies are plentiful. The beef cattle are in excellent condition. Snow cover is 12 to 16 inches. The warmer weather in the second week of January has caused considerable snow melt.

COTTONWOOD: Most farmers are busy with spring bookings of seed, chemicals, and fertilizers. Close out of farm records and meeting with tax preparers are also scheduled. Feed supplies are adequate, and livestock feeding conditions have greatly improved with the existing weather conditions.

FARIBAULT: All of the crops and tillage were completed last fall. Some producers who wanted to were unable to get anhydrous applied last fall due to the short window of opportunity. Producers have been making crop input decisions, tax planning, and clearing snow this last month.
KANABEC: Some of the soybeans and corn are still standing in the fields. Topsoil moisture is adequate due to moderate to heavy snowfall. The feed supply is adequate for the area.

KITTSON: The below average temperatures in December put early pressure on feed stocks. However, should the winter temperatures return to average no shortages are anticipated. Snow cover is adequate to protect fall seeded crops and forage. Spring flood potential is a concern.

LAC QUI PARLE: Mild weather in January has been good for livestock producers. November and December used a lot of feed to maintain livestock. Feed supplies still seem sufficient.

LE SUEUR: Snow and ice accumulated from the sub-zero temperatures during late December and early January. Warmer winter temperatures in January have allowed livestock producers and dairy farmers to thaw out waterers/feeders and other equipment. Warmer temperatures have also allowed a meltdown of frozen manure in open lots and in freestall barns.

LINCOLN: Fields are mostly bare again. Snow blew into trees and such. The snow in road ditches is real dirty. CRP areas catch a lot of snow.

MEEKER: There is a lot of discussion about the new Ag secretary and concerns about the direction of the new administration in farm policy. There is also a lot of talk about the high price of both fuel and fertilizer when planning cash flows.

MORRISON: Some corn remains unharvested in Morrison county. Livestock are doing better now with January's mild weather. More than normal feed usage occurred during November and December. Supply will be limited this spring with little to no carry over of feed.

MURRAY: Mild weather has returned in January. Fields are no longer snow covered. There is still some unharvested corn in the field.

POLK: A cold December required additional feeding for livestock. There are no feed shortages. Due to the extremely cold temperatures, this is the earliest that sugarbeet piles are frozen.

POPE: As we went into the fall harvest it was very dry. However, late season moisture has helped to restore needed soil moisture. Harvest went quite smoothly, except for those who waited to take advantage of natural drying of crops. They ended up with some delays because of rain. For all practical purposes, all crops are harvested. There is concern that grain bins may be too full. Crops were not dry enough when placed in bins.

RED LAKE: The temperatures in December were below average. There is some snow cover in Red Lake County. Fields with little stubble still show black dirt in patches.

RENVILLE: Sugarbeet piles are spoiling and this is a major concern of the sugar co-op. With the snow we had in December, the majority of the fields were covered with snow until the last few days with the warmer weather.

REDWOOD: Farmers are concerned about availability and price of nitrogen based fertilizers.

ROCK: After more than a month of extremely cold temperatures and heavy snowfall, conditions have improved greatly. The price of hay and straw still remains high. Livestock conditions have improved along with the better weather in January.

ROSEAU: Snow cover is adequate for alfalfa and winter wheat. Feed supplies are adequate.

STEELE: Reports of ice buildup in some grain bins. Farmers are aerating grain now with the warmer temperatures. Very little standing crops are left in the fields.

WASECA: There is some corn left in the field. All the tillage is done. The grain in bins remain in good condition.

WATONWAN: Producers should consider planting living snow fences to protect roadways, building sites, and construction. The increasing price of anhydrous ammonia may cause planting modifications this spring, thus, the value of livestock manure should increase. Watch for grain marketing opportunities. Forward contracting corn was an opportunity in early January.

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 2000

Temperatures during December averaged from 11.3 degrees below normal in the Southwest District to 8.6 degrees below normal in the Northeast District. Temperature extremes included a low of -35 degrees at Morris and a high of 37 degrees at Grand Marais, Pipestone, Preston, and Winona. Average precipitation ranged from 0.43 inch below normal in the Northeast District to 1.02 inches above normal in the South Central District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 3.13 inches was recorded in Waseca.

Precipitation and Temperature Summary for December,2000

	Temperature				Precipitation	
	High	Low	Month Ave	Dept. for Month	Month Total	Dept. for Month
<u>NW DIST 1</u>						
Crookston	35	-20	.5	-8.1	.54	.04
Moorhead	35	-22	-.3	-11.9	.69	.04
Warroad	34	-30	-3.2	-9.4	.74	.13
<u>NC DIST 2</u>						
Grand Rapids	32	-22	2.0	-8.9	.94	-.05
Intl. Falls	33	-26	-1.4	-8.6	.20	-.64
Itasca	32	-25	-.3	-9.3	.87	-.13
<u>NE DIST 3</u>						
Duluth	31	-18	4.4	-8.4	.93	-.31
Grand Marais	37	-15	10.2	-8.6	.66m	-.42m
Hibbing	31	-26	1.4	-8.7	.17	-.55
<u>WC DIST 4</u>						
Alexandria	32	-21	1.6	-11.7	.07	-.63
Browns Valley	34	-20	4.0	-9.3	.93	.39
Canby	36	-19	6.4	-9.7	1.22	.39
Fergus Falls	34	-28	.9	-10.9	.95	.29
Montevideo	34	-20	4.8	-10.7	1.56	.68
Morris	34	-35	1.0	-12.5	.87	.17
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>						
Becker	34	-20	5.1	-9.0	.95	-.00
Hutchinson	35	-19	7.0	-8.2	.65	-.18
Olivia	33	-16	4.2	-10.8	.83	.15
St. Cloud	34	-26	4.2	-9.9	.16	-.67
Staples	32	-28	-.2	-11.9	.57	-.22
Willmar	33	-18	4.0	-10.0	.65	-.19
<u>EC DIST 6</u>						
Aitkin	32	-20	3.5	-8.5	1.10	.16
Cambridge	33	-33	2.9	-12.1	1.24	.27
MSP Airport	35	-17	7.4	-10.5	.93	-.15
St. Paul - UofM	34	-15	8.6	-11.4	.79	-.31
<u>SW DIST 7</u>						
Lamberton	34	-18	5.1	-11.4	.73	.05
Pipestone	37	-22	4.9	-10.5	.62	-.10
Redwood Falls	35	-18	4.6	-12.8	.90	.21
Worthington	35	-16	5.6	-11.2	1.05	.21
<u>SC DIST 8</u>						
Faribault	35	-27	7.0	-9.5	1.39	.25
Waseca	35	-21	5.9	-10.0	3.13	1.81
Winnebago	34	-20	5.5	-11.3	2.15	1.01
<u>SE DIST 9</u>						
Preston	37	-32	6.7	-10.9	2.64	1.34
Red Wing	35	-25	7.7	-7.2	2.18	.92
Rochester	33	-25	6.1	-11.1	1.64	.61
Rosemount	35	-23	6.0	-9.0	1.61	.38
Winona	37	-31	7.8	-11.3	1.67	.59

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KITTSON: The below average temperatures in December put early pressure on feed stocks. However, should the winter temperatures return to average no shortages are anticipated. Snow cover is adequate to protect fall seeded crops and forage. Spring flood potential is a concern.

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LINCOLN: Fields are mostly bare again. Snow blew into trees and such. The snow in road ditches is real dirty. CRP areas catch a lot of snow.

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POLK: A cold December required additional feeding for livestock. There are no feed shortages. Due to the extremely cold temperatures, this is the earliest that sugarbeet piles are frozen.

POPE: As we went into the fall harvest it was very dry. However, late season moisture has helped to restore needed soil moisture. Harvest went quite smoothly, except for those who waited to take advantage of natural drying of crops. They ended up with some delays because of rain. For all practical purposes, all crops are harvested. There is concern that grain bins may be too full. Crops were not dry enough when placed in bins.

RED LAKE: The temperatures in December were below average. There is some snow cover in Red Lake County. Fields with little stubble still show black dirt in patches.

RENVILLE: Sugarbeet piles are spoiling and this is a major concern of the sugar co-op. With the snow we had in December, the majority of the fields were covered with snow until the last few days with the warmer weather.

REDWOOD: Farmers are concerned about availability and price of nitrogen based fertilizers.

ROCK: After more than a month of extremely cold temperatures and heavy snowfall, conditions have improved greatly. The price of hay and straw still remains high. Livestock conditions have improved along with the better weather in January.

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STEELE: Reports of ice buildup in some grain bins. Farmers are aerating grain now with the warmer temperatures. Very little standing crops are left in the fields.

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WATONWAN: Producers should consider planting living snow fences to protect roadways, building sites, and construction. The increasing price of anhydrous ammonia may cause planting modifications this spring, thus, the value of livestock manure should increase. Watch for grain marketing opportunities. Forward contracting corn was an opportunity in early January.

PRECIPITATION AND TEMPERATURE SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 2000

Temperatures during December averaged from 11.3 degrees below normal in the Southwest District to 8.6 degrees below normal in the Northeast District. Temperature extremes included a low of -35 degrees at Morris and a high of 37 degrees at Grand Marais, Pipestone, Preston, and Winona. Average precipitation ranged from 0.43 inch below normal in the Northeast District to 1.02 inches above normal in the South Central District. Greatest monthly precipitation of 3.13 inches was recorded in Waseca.

Precipitation and Temperature Summary for December,2000

	Temperature				Precipitation	
	High	Low	Month Ave	Dept. for Month	Month Total	Dept. for Month
<u>NW DIST 1</u>						
Crookston	35	-20	.5	-8.1	.54	.04
Moorhead	35	-22	-.3	-11.9	.69	.04
Warroad	34	-30	-3.2	-9.4	.74	.13
<u>NC DIST 2</u>						
Grand Rapids	32	-22	2.0	-8.9	.94	-.05
Intl. Falls	33	-26	-1.4	-8.6	.20	-.64
Itasca	32	-25	-.3	-9.3	.87	-.13
<u>NE DIST 3</u>						
Duluth	31	-18	4.4	-8.4	.93	-.31
Grand Marais	37	-15	10.2	-8.6	.66m	-.42m
Hibbing	31	-26	1.4	-8.7	.17	-.55
<u>WC DIST 4</u>						
Alexandria	32	-21	1.6	-11.7	.07	-.63
Browns Valley	34	-20	4.0	-9.3	.93	.39
Canby	36	-19	6.4	-9.7	1.22	.39
Fergus Falls	34	-28	.9	-10.9	.95	.29
Montevideo	34	-20	4.8	-10.7	1.56	.68
Morris	34	-35	1.0	-12.5	.87	.17
<u>CENT DIST 5</u>						
Becker	34	-20	5.1	-9.0	.95	-.00
Hutchinson	35	-19	7.0	-8.2	.65	-.18
Olivia	33	-16	4.2	-10.8	.83	.15
St. Cloud	34	-26	4.2	-9.9	.16	-.67
Staples	32	-28	-.2	-11.9	.57	-.22
Willmar	33	-18	4.0	-10.0	.65	-.19
<u>EC DIST 6</u>						
Aitkin	32	-20	3.5	-8.5	1.10	.16
Cambridge	33	-33	2.9	-12.1	1.24	.27
MSP Airport	35	-17	7.4	-10.5	.93	-.15
St. Paul - UofM	34	-15	8.6	-11.4	.79	-.31
<u>SW DIST 7</u>						
Lamberton	34	-18	5.1	-11.4	.73	.05
Pipestone	37	-22	4.9	-10.5	.62	-.10
Redwood Falls	35	-18	4.6	-12.8	.90	.21
Worthington	35	-16	5.6	-11.2	1.05	.21
<u>SC DIST 8</u>						
Faribault	35	-27	7.0	-9.5	1.39	.25
Waseca	35	-21	5.9	-10.0	3.13	1.81
Winnebago	34	-20	5.5	-11.3	2.15	1.01
<u>SE DIST 9</u>						
Preston	37	-32	6.7	-10.9	2.64	1.34
Red Wing	35	-25	7.7	-7.2	2.18	.92
Rochester	33	-25	6.1	-11.1	1.64	.61
Rosemount	35	-23	6.0	-9.0	1.61	.38
Winona	37	-31	7.8	-11.3	1.67	.59

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MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
TWIN CITIES INT'L AIRPORT, UNIV. OF MINN. EXTENSION SERVICE, AND STATE CLIMATOLOGY, DNR

The following comments are from Minnesota's County Extension Educators
and FSA (USDA - Farm Service Agency) Offices

BROWN: Farmers report heavier than usual consumption of feed by livestock during the recent cold spell. Feed supplies seem to be adequate with the exception of good quality dairy hay.

CHISAGO: Crop producers are actively purchasing crop insurance and considering crop marketing decisions for the old and new crops.

CLEARWATER: Feed supplies are plentiful. The beef cattle are in excellent condition. Snow cover is 12 to 16 inches. The warmer weather in the second week of January has caused considerable snow melt.

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